



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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## **Fiscal Year 2013 Expectations**



# FY 13 Preview

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# FY 13 Preview

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.....16 workdays away.....



# FY 13 Preview

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- **New Farm Bill**

- H.R. 6083, Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012
- S. 3240, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012
- Both have strong support for EQIP
- President is supportive of Congress passing a five-year farm bill upon return in September
- Don't expect a lot of changes for Conservation Title
  - Consolidation of some programs (probably no WHIP, but a dedication of resources under EQIP towards wildlife habitat)
  - Likely that Veterans will join the Historically Underserved definition



## Agency Consistency and Streamlining in FY 13

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- Improve consistency and streamline implementation of our conservation programs
- A universal program implementation timeline will be used for financial assistance programs, easement programs and initiative activities.
- Guidance to implement programs and kick-off initiatives will be coordinated and delivered together, making the planning process easier for State leadership and field staff and helping to streamline program delivery.
- Chief White: “We’re confident that these changes will simplify and improve our program implementation across the country – making things easier for both producers and NRCS employees, and ultimately putting more conservation on the ground.”



# Timeline

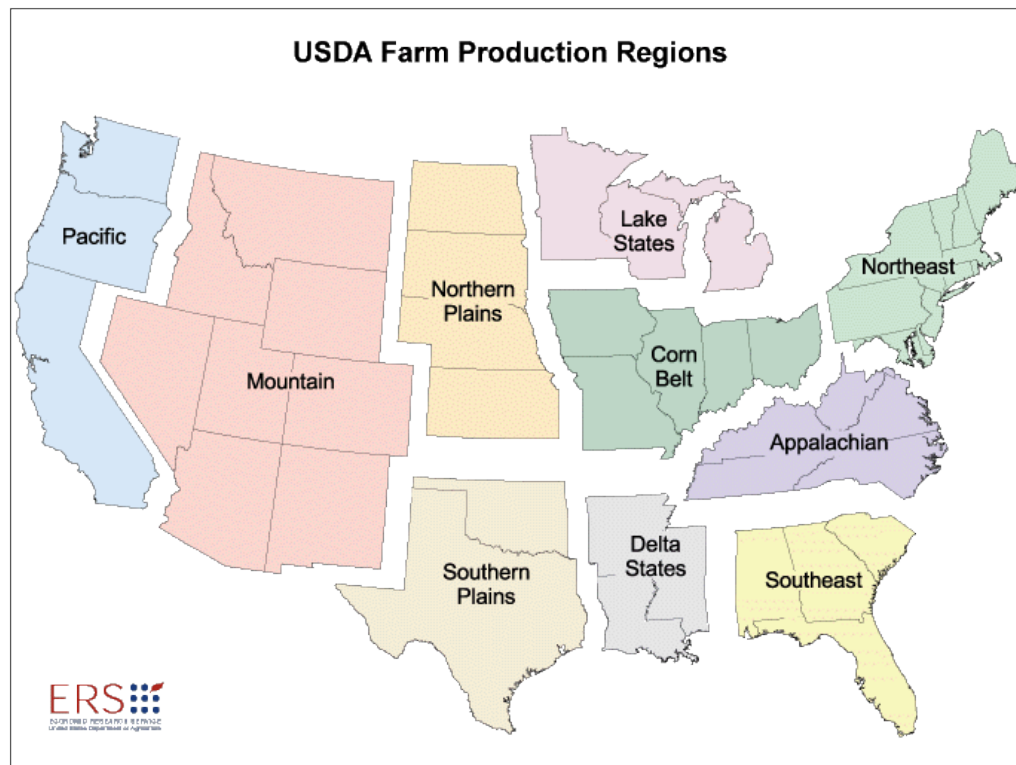
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- Includes consistency in ranking periods
  - aka sign-up periods, batching periods
- States can identify not less than one, no more than eight cut-offs
- Will be the third Friday of the month(s) between October and May



# Payment Schedule

- Regionalized 15 practices in FY 2012
- All practices will be regionalized in FY 2013
- Kentucky is in the Appalachian region with TN, WV, VA and NC.





## **FY 13 Preview**

# **Kentucky EQIP Field Team Met in August**

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Seven members gathered suggestions/input from their peers

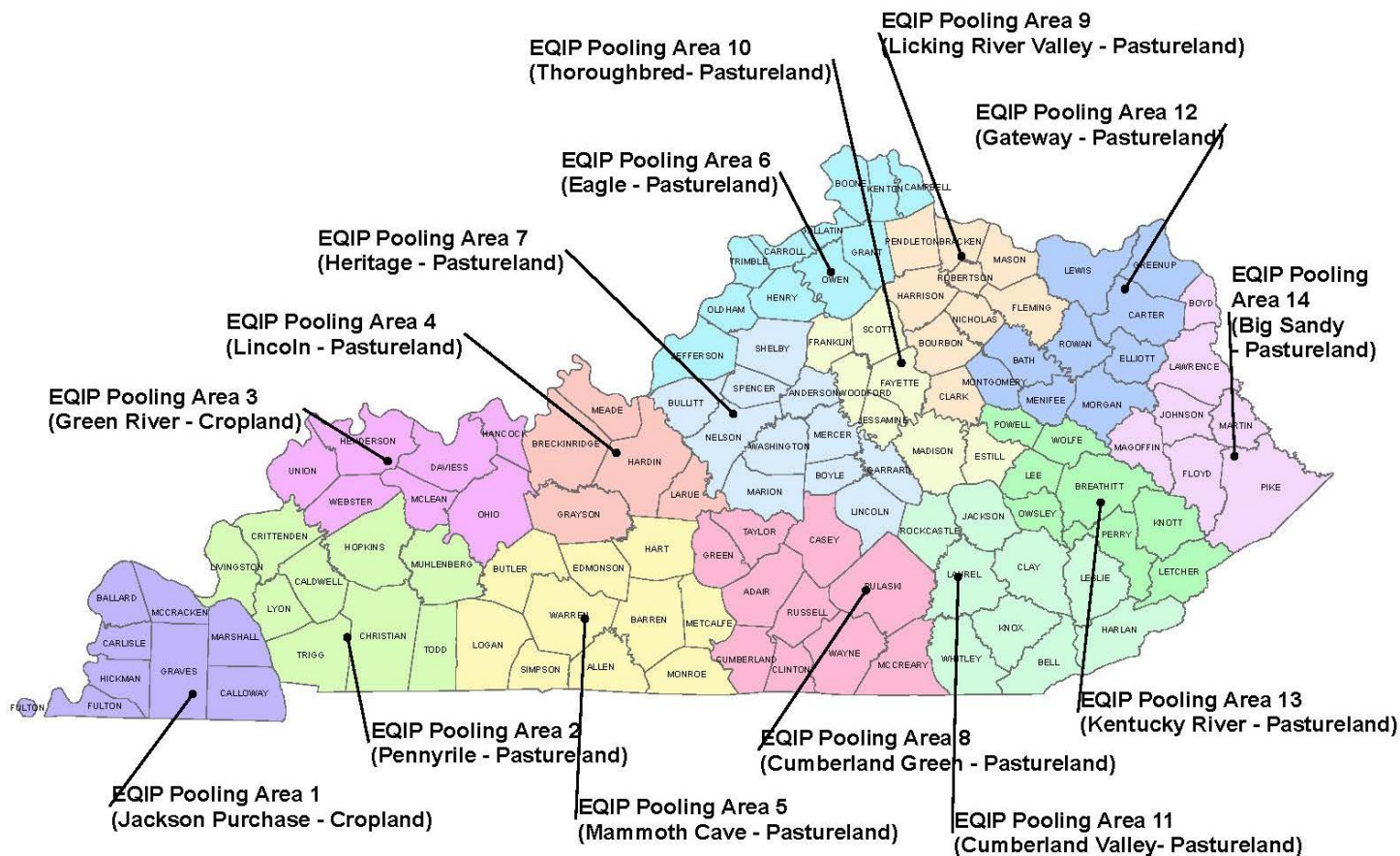
### **Top Concerns:**

- ❖ Cover Crops
  - ❖ Prices, seeding rates, kill dates
  - ❖ Can we offer more options?
- ❖ Pre-ranking Sheet
  - ❖ Somewhat confusing format; can it be simplified?
- ❖ Kentucky EQIP Guidance Document
  - ❖ Want a full day training on the guidance
- ❖ Ranking/Pooling Areas
  - ❖ Discussion on if we have too many across the state





# FY 2012 Kentucky Pooling Areas





# FY 12 EQIP Funding Pools (50+)

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## **General EQIP**

### **National Initiatives**

- Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative
- Energy Initiative (CAPs)
- Organic Initiative
- National Water Quality Initiative
- MRBI (Landscape Initiative)

### **State Initiatives**

- Wildlife
- Forestland
- Grassland Birds
- BioMass Crop

## **Historically Underserved**

- Socially Disadvantaged
- Limited Resource Producer
- Beginning Farmer

## **EQIP Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) (written by TSPs)**

- On Farm Energy
- CNMP
- Forestland
- Nutrient Management

## **EQIP Emergency Drought Assistance**



# Is there interest from this group in providing input on:

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- Ranking periods?
- Pooling areas for “General EQIP”?
- State Initiatives?

If so, we'll schedule an EQIP Subcommittee meeting.



# Questions??



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## **Link to Chief White's CDSI Video**

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<http://mfile3.akamai.com/23747/wmv/ocbmtcmedia.download.akamai.com/23747/nrcs/NRCSConservationDesktopCAP.asx>